

MARLDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 2024 at 7pm

Present; Cllrs Bailey , Balster (Chair), Claridge , Clarke , Cooke, Hore ,

Morris-Rabbitts and Sharland. C Cllr Hawkins , D Cllr Penfold

Clerk - Karen Gilbert, and 21

members of the Public (plus children)

24/02/01 Apologies for Absence - Cllr Cotton

24/02/02 Declarations of Interest Cllr Clarke - other registrable interest - TRAYE

24/02/03 Dispensation request - Cllr Clarke to speak and vote in item 8 TRAYE - approved

24/02/04 - Approval of Minutes

Cllr Clarke and Balster requested the following be added under Clerks report - **APPROVED**

The Monitoring Officer's decision the complaint about Cllr Clarke was no further action

The Minutes of the November 2023 were signed by the Chairman as a true record

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th January 2024 were signed by the Chairman as a true record

STANDING ORDERS WERE SUSPENDED

24/02/05 - Public participation

A Parishioner commented on the activity in a certain area of the Parish from a security point of view

C Cllr Jacqi Hodgson , Ed Vidler and Jo Rice , all Trustees of TRAYE commented on the benefits which TRAYE provides to the Young people and their families and hoped that the Council would continue to support the project

A Youth leader advised on how the Marldon Club was run and the activities which the young people enjoyed

24/02/06 Councillor reports

District Cllr Penfold - Look out for a public consultation that started 12th February for 6 weeks. Details on Devon County Council website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/devon-and-torbay-devolution-deal>

There is a proposal between the Government, Torbay Council and Devon County Council to transfer a package of powers and funding from Whitehall to local government in Devon and Torbay.

The two Councils are also seeking greater local control and resources to tackle key local challenges such as the need for more affordable housing and improved public transport.

It will include £16m of new Government funding to support skills training and new jobs.

It does not require an elected Mayor for Devon and Torbay. Instead, the Government will introduce secondary legislation to create a Combined County Authority (CCA) for the area. The CCA will comprise councillors appointed to represent the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils. The CCA will include representatives from business and education.

The County Council and Torbay Council has been asked to create a public consultation on the setting up of a proposed CCA, with a final decision coming before their respective Councils in March 2024 Also see **www.devon.gov.uk/news/government-publishes-proposals-to-transfer-powers-and-funding-from-whitehall-to-devon-and-torbay/**

South Hams residents can sign up to or renew their subscription for the garden waste collection service from 15 February. Anyone who signs up between 15 February and 1 April 2024 will pay a discounted fee of £52 for a year-long subscription running from April 2024 that covers collections for one brown wheelie bin. There is a maximum of two subscriptions (which would cover two bins) per household. Anyone who signs up after 31 March will pay £55. This is an increase on last year's fee, but it is necessary to cover rising costs. The quickest and easiest way to sign up is on the SHDC website: **www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste** or call on 01803 861234

For current subscribers who renew by 1 April, there will be no changes to their service, and they can continue to use their brown bin with no interruptions.
The 2023/24 year subscriptions finish on 14th February 24.

Devon County Cllr Jonathan Hawkins

Cllr Hawkins showed support for the TRAYE project and offered financial assistance from his DCC locality fund . He also encouraged local groups to apply for grant funding from this fund - the new round of funding commencing in April 2024

Cllr Hawkins highlighted some road surface improvements in the Village and advised he had attended at meeting in Compton with NT representatives , Cllrs Penfold and Hore and a member of the Compton community with regard to drainage/flooding issues and the clearance of the leat.

The Chairman invited the two people seeking co-option to introduce themselves and give a short presentation

STANDING ORDERS WERE RE-INSTATED

24/02/07 - Admin

To consider any CO-OPTIONS to fill vacant seat

A Vote was taken - 6 for Roddy , 2 for other applicant -

It was **RESOLVED** that David Roddy be co-opted to serve as Member and after signing the Acceptance of Office , Cllr Roddy joined the Council meeting

To NOTE training session booked for 7th March 2024 in Committee room MVH **NOTED**

To NOTE Complaints Policy - **NOTED**

To NOTE that Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 29th May 2024 **NOTED**

To NOTE the May Annual Parish Council meeting will take place on 8th May 2024 **NOTED**

Pre-school post arrangements - to receive a report (Cllr Hore) **RECEIVED and NOTED**

24/01/08 TRAYE

To NOTE the DALC advice to reject the Memorandum of understanding - **NOTED**

The Clerk read out the constraints which the Council was facing with regard to the Governance restrictions . She also provided the advice supplied by Devon Association of Local Councils

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY CLLR SHARLAND

It is proposed that MPC extends its continuing support to the TRAYE project by further increasing this years grant funding towards the running of the Marldon Youth Club as follows:
An initial contribution of £2,500, representing an increase of approximately 25% over the councils' previous grant.

A second, 'earmarked', contribution of up to a further £1,000 to be made approximately six months later, dependant on detailed reports from TRAYE on the uses the funding has been put to as required by the Sc 137 funding terms".

Cllr Sharland commented that any agreement on Payment for 24/25 provided time to consider how the Parish Council might overcome Governance issues and so how arrangements might be made for the 25/26

It was felt that Councillor attendance to some sessions might heighten the understanding for both parties - this to be arranged through the Clerk

It was **NOTED** that the an increase in the Insurance was being considered

After suitable discussion and taking into account the advice provided , A VOTE was taken

It was **RESOLVED** that the sum of £2500 be paid once the precept for 24/25 was received A second, 'earmarked', contribution of up to a further £1,000 to be made approximately six months later, dependant on detailed reports from TRAYE on the uses the funding has been put to as required by the Sc 137 funding terms".

It is **noted** that such funding comes under the restrictions of Sc 137 of the 1972 LGA. Sc 137 allows councils to make grants to suitable projects that cannot otherwise be funded. This can only be used when no other specific power applies, e.g. it is the 'power of last resort'. Sc 137 funding further requires that 'The Council must ensure that the direct benefit to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred'. Sc 137 is paid under MPC's grant policy and as such should not be used to pay recurring costs such as staff salaries.

24/02/09 - Clerk's report

The Clerk read out a letter from Marldon Scouts advising that the sessions were continuing to run for Beaver and Cub sections, catering for children from six to eleven years old . These sessions were currently being run from the Community Room at the Village Hall.

The uncultivated allotment would be vacated by the beginning of March and handed over to the next person on the list

24/02/10 - Cheques for payment - Approved

24/02/11 Councillor reports

MEG REPORT

MEG partook in their annual 'thank-you' buffet at the Olde Smokey pub a couple of weeks ago and

13/2/24	Derek Hore	25.20		25.20	Basketball net x 2
13/2/24	Karen Gilbert	178.31	22.88	205.31	Expenses and stationery / ink
13/2/24	Birbeck Landscapes	3360.00		3360.00	2023/24 grass cutting
13/2/24	National Grid Electricity Distribution	389.42	77.88	467.30	Disconnection Jubilee
13/2/24	Source for business	96.63		96.63	Allotment water
13/2/24	Karen Gilbert	129.57		129.57	Reimburse OPUS energy
	P3 invoices				
13/2/24	Robin Cox	179.88		179.88	P3 + thank you function

all members attended. We would like to thank the Parish Council and particularly Councillor Hore for organising this. The Group commenced work again last week and were broken in gently by carrying out some tidying up work around the 5-Lanes area. At long last we have been able to obtain a date for some Chapter 8 training so two members will be attending the course at Notter Bridge in Saltash on 14th February. Again, thanks to Councillor Hore and Karen our Clerk for pursuing this and finally obtaining a positive result.

WAM Report

Some light cutting back and tidying up has happened in Jubilee Meadow. Plans for the first quarter of this year are to cut back the long areas in the wild corner of Jubilee Meadow, to sow more wildflower seeds there and to keep a close eye on the memorial garden, planting and cutting back as needed.

COMPTON REPORT

As mentioned at the last meeting, the leat running through Compton had been dredged before Christmas, and the National Trust were adamant that all work promised had been completed. However, with the help of our County Councillor I finally got a humble apology from them as they realised only a section of the leat had in fact been dredged, so I managed to organise a meeting with the National Trust, our County and District Councillors, a Compton resident and myself to find out exactly what has and hasn't been done. Apart from the ongoing dire condition of Widdecombe Lane which has its road surface issues reported to DCC Highways regularly, all is good in Compton. No further issues.

Westerland report - Since our last meeting, I have been in touch with PC Zoe Carter who put me in touch with the Speedwatch Team. Parishioners in Westerland are excited about this with

seven of them joining to dates Speeding is still an issue with many parishioners saying that they have had near misses particularly on the Five Lanes and Totnes Road stretch. Sadly to say, two more cats have been run over.

I had to report to PC Carter that two men were seen outside our gates who were taking photographs and said they were doing loft insulations. They drove off in a plain white van before we could get a registration number. I have asked PC Carter to ask the patrol cars to keep an eye out for us all.

Police Advocate Meeting

Cllr Balster reported on a Zoom meeting she had recently attended

Councillor Advocate Report – February 2024 CLLR HORE

Yesterday afternoon I attended “The Commissioner's Volunteers' Thank You Event” held at Middlemoor Police Station in Exeter, hosted by the Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez, aided by the acting Chief Constable Jim Colwell.

A slide show was shown highlighting Policing problems in our two counties, then both hosts gave a brief chat about the value of involving local communities in their work.

There were about 40 other Councillor Advocates in attendance with the vast majority coming from the larger towns and cities in Devon and Cornwall.

However, it was good to be able to put forward a few points regarding the smaller Villages in the County and both hosts were keen to take on board comments made.

I also had the chance to speak to both of them one-to-one after the event.

At the end, all attendees were presented with a certificate plus a small gift of a PCC notebook and pen and a then nice buffet ended the event.

Planning Report. I managed to spend an hour on a zoom planning meeting, although it did go on for three hours.

In the part I was able to view, it was interesting to hear that on a village listing, there is still a designated Neighbourhood Plan for Marldon.

Marldon, Westerland and Compton Awareness Poster

Cllr Balster provided a poster covering :scammers, cat theft and burglaries

TRAYE

Cllr Clarke gave a lengthy report (Full report available from the Clerk)

Over 2023, TRAYE responded to 12 safeguarding issues in Marldon alone. This means that the Youth Club supported 12 families outside of Youth Club time - helping them to navigate difficult times and providing one to one support for the young people most in need. The children go on trips, enjoy games indoors and out, and learn to communicate their challenges, build a network of friends, and believe their futures can be bright and successful, preparing them for adulthood with the tools and mind-sets that will mould theirs and their children's futures.

24/02/12 - Open Spaces

a) To NOTE the National Grid charge £467.30 to disconnect supply (Jubilee Meadow) **NOTED**

b) To receive an update on the land originally purchased for a Graveyard extension

DEFERRED TO 03/24

c) Broomhill Meadow - Proposal Cllr Sharland

‘Given that a range of information including the covenant on the land, has recently come to light, it is proposed that MPC rejects the current suggestion for a ‘Pump Park’ facility to be built in Broomhill Meadow.’

It was **RESOLVED** that this matter be deferred for the meanwhile

‘In order to allow an opportunity for our parishioners to bring their own ideas or suggestions for either improvements to the recreational space in Broomhill Meadow or for

an alternative site for a 'Pump park', it is further proposed that the issue be taken forward to the Parish Meeting for informal discussion.

It was **RESOLVED** that the matter be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting

24/02/13- Playground

Cllr Hore confirmed that the only matter on the SHDC monthly report had been addressed - in that the Basketball net had been replaced

24/02/14 HIGHWAYS -

New Speedwatch Team - Cllr Balster

It was very encouraging to know that more or less straight after the last meeting, I asked for volunteers on the village internet sites and within a couple of days we had eight people wanting to join us.

We can now register a team and once we have all been trained and been given our yellow jackets and tools to do the job, we are hoping to be out and about.

If we find that we have more people wanting to join us, we may even be able to have two teams of four.

I have also been invited to watch the Newton Abbot team in action, and hopefully by our next meeting we can do the same.

The Clerk asked for confirmation that this was a Police / community initiative and that the Parish Council would not be liable for assuring that suitable insurance was in place

ACTION ; CLLR BALSTER TO ENQUIRE AND ADVISE CLERK

b) To decide whether to submit a 20mph scheme for Devon County consideration

The matter was referred to Cllr Cooke in association with Cllr Balster who had submitted the last scheme

24/02/15- Planning

<u>0301/24/ VAR</u>	36 Pembroke Park Marldon TQ3 1NL	Application for variation of condition 5 (screening) of planning consent 3836/20/HHO OBJECTION
<u>4137/23/ HHO</u>	Alpine House Compton Marldon TQ3 1TA	Householder application for demolition of garage & extension to form accommodation. NO OBJECTION
<u>0005/24/ LBC</u>	Torr Cottage, Ipplepen Road, Marldon, TQ3 1SE	Listed Building Consent for repairs to two chimneys NO OBJECTION

24/02/16- DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 12th March 2024

24/02/17 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Council **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the agenda items 18/19 owing to the confidential nature of the business to transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

PART TWO -

24/02/18. To further discuss a tribute to Trevor Pennington

ACTION ; CLLR BALSTER TO PREPARE INSCRIPTION FOR PLAQUE FOR APPROVAL

19. To discuss a Complaint against Cllrs Balster and Clarke and decide on a response

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council forward a letter of apology to the Complainant for the incorrect procedure during the vote for the Chairman's role in May 2023

ACTION : CLERK TO SENT LETTER OF APOLOGY

There being no further business , the Meeting was **CLOSED** at 9.50pm